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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Acting President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its second regular session of 1991, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/68 of 26 July 1991 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/65 of 11 December 1991, in paragraph 22 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions, the Acting President is of the view that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. As most of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories are islands, small in size and population, geographically isolated and vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and cyclones, as well as relatively undeveloped economically, they are particularly dependent on external assistance. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, should therefore be invited to examine and review conditions in each of the Territories, commensurate with the pressing needs of the peoples concerned for increased transfer of resources, technology and know-how, and take appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress.

4. In accordance with the terms of Council resolution 1991/68, the Acting President of the Council maintained close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee during the period under review and, on the basis of those contacts and in the light of related developments, submits to the Council the observations set out below, with a view to facilitating Council consideration of the present item.

5. During the year, members of the Council and the Special Committee followed closely the work of their respective bodies relating to the item. The Acting President considers it both useful and essential that such contacts and cooperation continue to be maintained and strengthened to mobilize the maximum possible assistance to the peoples of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. According to the information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, during the period under review a

number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend assistance to the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance.

7. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. The Acting President of the Council notes that the fifth cycle (1992-1996) indicative planning figures (IPFs) established for some of those Territories include the following: Anguilla, US$ 1,266,000; British Virgin Islands, $102,000; Cayman Islands, $385,000; Montserrat, $539,000; Saint Helena, $1,405,000; Tokelau, $1,197,000; Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), $326,000; and Turks and Caicos Islands, $971,000. These amounts cover assistance in the primary economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries industry, transportation, communication and power generation, as well as in the social and educational sectors, and are being executed by a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in close cooperation, where appropriate, with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

8. The Acting President of the Council draws attention to the extremely fragile economies of these small island Territories and stresses the continuing critical needs of their people. While noting with appreciation the increased assistance being rendered to those Territories, the Acting President appeals to the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to focus their renewed attention on all Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to expand and increase their assistance programmes to them. The Acting President of the Council is particularly mindful of the pressing need for external assistance of a number of dependent Territories for which no IPF had yet been established. The need for assistance to those Territories is extremely acute.

9. Renewed efforts must be made to secure an increased flow of funds. Bearing in mind the need for maximum flexibility, the involved institutions should take steps to remove any existing constraints or difficulties so as to ensure the availability of the additional resources required. The role of the executive heads of the institutions concerned is of special importance. In keeping with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 46/65 and paragraph 12 of Council resolution 1991/68, the executive heads should formulate concrete proposals for consideration by the respective governing and legislative organs. At the same time, the agencies and organizations that have depended to a large extent on extrabudgetary sources for financing of assistance projects should continue to try to find ways of including or increasing provision in their regular budgets for projects for the peoples concerned.

10. The importance of strengthening this cooperation cannot but be stressed considering the need for the creation of conditions that would facilitate the exercise by the peoples of the Territories of their legitimate rights to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

11. The Acting President of the Council welcomes the continued initiative of UNDP in maintaining close links with other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and in coordinating the activities of the agencies in extending assistance to the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The active participation of the representatives of the Governments of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories at meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations have invariably contributed to the positive consideration given by those bodies to measures in support of the peoples of those Territories. The Acting Prseident is convinced that interactions must be encouraged so that the Territories may draw the maximum possible benefits through active participation in the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. The close contacts have not only facilitated further increases in the volume and scope of assistance provided by the specialized agencies and organizations, but also have enhanced the ability of agencies to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility to needs. In order to make maximum use of the available resources, the agencies and organizations should take further steps to strengthen existing measures and explore additional ways of coordination.

I. SUPPORT BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

International Labour Organisation

12. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), as the executing agency, has delivered technical assistance to Anguilla and Montserrat under projects funded by UNDP.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

13. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is at present in the process of executing four technical assistance projects in the South Pacific, favouring Tokelau and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with the programmes concentrating mainly on root crops development, as well as on livestock, forestry and fisheries development.

14. Initial activities under a regional project on eradication of the tropical bout tick in the Caribbean are being carried out in Anguilla and Montserrat by FAO in cooperation with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for which funding is being sought.

15. The representatives from the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat have participated at several meetings held at the subregional level to discuss the draft "Caribbean Community Agreement on Cooperation in the Development and Management of the Living Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone", which was prepared with the assistance of a FAO/TCF/RLAC project, Legal Aspects of a Common Policy on Access to Exclusive Economic Zones. The project, Rehabilitation of the Agricultural Sector, funded by UNDP, is under implementation by FAO in Montserrat. As regards Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as other small Territories in the Caribbean, FAO has been invited by UNDP to review and comment on the country programme management plans, as well as on the country programmes for the fifth cycle.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

16. During the peiod under review, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued its programmes of assistance to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Those projects related, inter alia, to the development of teaching materials, provision of scholarships, restoration of historical sites, upgrading of information facilities and eradication of illiteracy. In respect of Anguilla, UNESCO, jointly with the British Development Division, has been supporting the development of teaching materials.

World Health Organization

17. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) of the World Health Organization (WHO) provided assistance to Anguilla and Montserrat in the areas of health equipment maintenance, improvement of laboratory facilities dealing with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), immunization and rodent control. PAHO executed approximately 8 per cent of the Anguillan projects funded by UNDP.

United Nations Children's Fund

18. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) approved a multi-island programme for the eastern Caribbean, including, inter alia, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, for the period 1988-1992, with available general resources of US$ 2,250,000. Owing to the increased availability of general resources, the annual planning level has been doubled to US$ 900,000 from 1991 onwards. The UNICEF programmes for Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands cover projects in the fields of early childhood development, maternal and child health, nutrition, water and sanitation and women in development. Funds allocated for those projects are distributed among the Territories for 1991 and 1992, respectively, as follows: the British Virgin Islands, US$ 17,000 and US$ 21,500; Montserrat, US$ 24,900 and US$ 41,500; and the Turks and Caicos Islands, US$ 15,000 and US$ 40,100. For the period

1993-1997, the Executive Director of UNICEF recommends that the Executive Board approve the multi-island programme for the eastern Caribbean, including the islands mentioned above, in the amount of US$ 5.1 million from general sources and US$ 5 million in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of funds.

United Nations Population Fund

19. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued its programme of assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories within the UNDP framework. For Anguilla, UNFPA assistance in the amount of US$ 32,085 covered a project on family life education and strengthening of family planning services, which has just been concluded, and the formulation of a new project has begun. A mission to Anguilla took place in March 1992 to discuss how best the momentum of the project could continue into the new project. A draft project document has been submitted which emphasizes the training of teachers and parents. UNFPA also assisted in the population census, held in March/April, which showed a significant increase in the population.

20. In the British Virgin Islands, UNFPA executed a family life project, with a contribution of US$ 60,449, which will be reviewed in mid-1992. UNFPA provided partial support to the 1991 census, with assistance amounting to US$ 7,300. UNFPA also extended technical assistance to the British Virgin Islands through a subregional programme with CARICOM on preliminary census data. The Government of the British Virgin Islands has expressed interest in population and development integration strategy. When a formal request is received, a demographer, funded by UNFPA, will undertake a mission to analyse the situation with a view to further development.

21. With regard to the Cayman Islands, UNDP has collaborated with the Government on a national household survey capability programme for which UNFPA has been approached for partial contribution, arrangements for which have not yet been finalized.

22. In Montserrat, the children and youth training project concluded its activities in 1991 for which UNFPA contributed US$ 44,980. The project overall was deemed successful, especially in the areas involving local youths and parents. Intersectoral coordination among the ministries of health and education and the Montserrat Family Planning Asscciation was achieved, which was considered a positive step towards self-reliance and institutional building.

23. At the request of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a consultation mission was conducted by the UNFPA-funded demographer in 1990 for the establishment of a population policy in the islands. With the election of a new Government in 1991, however, Government priorities were rearranged, resulting in a weakened commitment and interest expressed earlier. For the fifth multi-island programme for countries of the eastern Caribbean, UNFPA assistance amounted to US$ 1.2 million.

24. In respect of Territories in the Pacific region, namely, Tokelau and Palau, UNFPA allocated US$ 18 million for the region. UNFPA assistance to Tokelau is in the health sector where it will support maternal child health and family planning (MCH/FP) activities. Other activities include training in the handling of medical equipment, basic drugs and other supplies, including a small boat for the atoll's health services. UNFPA extends support to fellowships at the Fiji Nursing College for health personnel. In order to strengthen the Government capability in management, UNFPA will assist in overseas training in New Zealand and fellowships at the University of the South Pacific in the areas of population and development. In addition, UNFPA is engaged in the provision of data-processing equipment and the conduct of simple surveys and their analysis, with particular focus on environmental considerations and linkages with the future development of the atolls. Other donors' assistance to Tokelau include that rendered by UNICEF and UNDP.

25. With respect to Palau, UNFPA assistance will address main areas of human development, population and environmental concerns. Through an integrated umbrella project, the followiong areas would be addressed: support to the Government of Palau would be provided for the implementation of its MCH/FP strategies and the expansion of quality and quantity of MCH/FP through an increase in the number of expectant mothers attending prenatal services during the first trimester; reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies; increase in the number of men who utilize family planning clinics; strengthening of the working knowledge and skills of the staff to manage the collected data; training in case management and evaluation of public health work; strengthening of the MCH/FP training of health assistants assigned to field dispensaries, support training and other logistical support. In the fields of public information, education and communication (IEC), UNFPA supports awareness among the various groups on health issues; training of trainers and Palau teachers as well as scholarships to Palauans; environment-related programmes in the form of IEC materials, workshops and seminars on environmental management and population issues.

II. SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID: CONSULTATIONS

26. The Acting President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid held consultations regarding the recent developments in South Africa and various actions taken by the international community since the second regular session of 1991 of the Council.

27. The Chairman of the Special Committee reviewed with the Acting President of the Council decisions taken by the General Assembly during its forty-sixth session. The Assembly, on 13 December 1991, adopted omnibus resolution 46/79 A-F on agenda item 37, entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" and resolution 46/80 on agenda item 102, entitled "United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa". Preserving the consensus that was forged in 1989, the Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 46/79 A on international efforts towards the total eradication of

apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. In that resolution, the Assembly welcomed the positive developments in South Africa including the signing of the National Peace Accord, the accession of South Africa to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Patriotic/United Front conference and the preparatory meeting for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). The Assembly expressed grave concern at the persistence of violence and at the remaining obstacles to free political activity. The Assembly appealed to the international community to support the critical process now under way through a phased application of appropriate pressure and to provide assistance to disadvantaged sectors of society and to the front-line States. In view of the progress made, the Assembly recommended the resumption of academic, scientific and cultural links with anti-apartheid organizations and sports links with non-racial sporting organizations. Turning to United Nations activities, the Assembly welcomed the agreement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the South African authorities concerning repatriation of refugees and exiles, and offered guidance to the Secretary-General regarding the resumption of assistance inside South Africa including assistance aimed at addressing socio-economic issues. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure the coordination of activities of the United Nations system and to continue monitoring implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (Assembly resolution S-16/1, annex).

28. In resolution 46/79 B on the programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the General Assembly called for a continuation of monitoring of developments in South Africa and activities of the international community, with emphasis on appropriate pressure and assistance to victims of apartheid. In resolution 46/79 C the Assembly expressed serious concern at continuous violations of the mandatory arms embargo and urged all States to adopt stricter legislation. The Assembly called upon all States to maintain existing financial measures until specific recommendations were made by transitional authorities to be established by Codesa. Resolution 46/79 D deplored military and nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa. Resolution 46/79 E reiterated the Assembly's concern at violation of the oil embargo, while resolution 46/79 F expressed support for continued humanitarian, legal and educational assistance to those persecuted and to facilitate reintegration of released prisoners and exiles into South African society.

29. The Assembly also adopted resolution 46/80 entitled "United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa", which called upon all concerned to assist the Programme in facilitating the returnability and job placement of its graduates to South Africa.

30. The Chairman also reviewed with the Acting President of the Council the proceedings and outcome of negotiations held within the framework of Codesa, in which 19 South African parties and organizations participated. Codesa's main priorities for discussion were the creation of a climate for free political activity, including the end of violence, release of political

prisoners and return of exiles; general constitutional principles; establishment of interim arrangements; the reintegration of the homelands; and time-frames and the implementation of Codesa's decisions. While reports presented at its second plenary session held in mid-May 1992, indicated that consensus had been reached on a number of issues, a failure by one working group to reach agreement prevented the consideration of other proposals, as the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) had insisted on the adoption of a complete package of proposals together with precise time-frames for their implementation. This impasse had caused additional delays in the progress for interim arrangements, which heightened frustrations and prompted plans for mass action as an effort of the democratic forces to speed up the negotiation process. The Chairman discussed the ANC policy conference, held in late May 1992, which adopted a comprehensive package of policy guidelines on issues that included the economy, health service, land, trade union rights and a new constitution. The Chairman then stated that it was essential that the international community continue to closely monitor the negotiations and urged all participants, particularly the South African Government, to facilitate the prompt establishment of transitional structures.

31. The Chairman discussed with the Acting President of the Council the wave of violence that had engulfed the country and had further hampered the creation of a free political climate ensuring its citizens their full participation in the political process. The violence had escalated, bringing the total number of victims killed since the signing of the National Peace Accord in September 1991, to more than 2,000. The Goldstone Commission, which was established to investigate the causes of violence, cited the climate of political intolerance, caused by economic, social and political imbalances that prevailed in the country, as one of the factors contributing to the escalation of violence. Allegations of police collusion with perpetrators of violence and revelations of military involvement in assassinations of anti-apartheid activists had strengthened suspicions of the police partiality and lack of interest in attempts to quell the violence. Violence was also viewed as a strategy to slow down the process of change. In a report of the International Commission of Jurists, who recently visited South Africa to study the issue of violence, it was pointed out that unless the army and police were controlled it would not be possible to hold free and fair elections on a one-person, one-vote basis in much of South Africa today. The Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which acknowledged the need for international involvement to put an end to the violence, sent an OAU delegation on a fact-finding mission whose purpose was to monitor and accelerate the democratization process and investigate incidents impeding this process. The South African authorities were urged to take firm steps to prevent criminal conduct by members of the security forces and to punish the perpetrators.

32. The Chairman advised the Acting President that although some 1,000 political prisoners were released in 1991, the release of such prisoners had virtually ceased since the beginning of 1992. The Human Rights Commission of South Africa (HRC) listed 395 political prisoners still held. Substantial progress had been achieved concerning the return of political exiles. By

April 1992, some 3,000 exiles had returned to South Africa under the auspices of the programme undertaken by UNHCR. The ANC had brought back an additional 7,000 exiles. The lower than expected number had been attributed to problems of poor housing and unemployment for these returnees, incidents of police harassment and imprisonment, as well as violence in the townships. There was a serious need for training programmes for returnees as well as efforts to expedite their reintegration into South African society. Aside from the UNHCR, which has become the first United Nations body to have a permanent presence in South Africa, ILO sent a commission of investigation into South Africa to study labour relations. In addition, ILO conducted a tripartite special conference on southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe, held on 5-8 May 1992, to discuss labour issues. ILO had pledged to continue support to migrant workers in southern Africa and to provide technical and vocational training to returning migrant workers.

33. To address the problem of the extreme socio-economic disparities among South Africans caused by decades of institutionalized racial segregation, the Chairman referred to resolution 46/79 A which stressed the need for the Secretary-General to expand, at an appropriate time and in a concerted manner, the scope of assistance provided inside South Africa, aimed at addressing socio-economic issues, particularly in areas of education, health, housing and social welfare. In this context, a seminar entitled, "South Africa's socio-economic problems: future role of the United Nations system in helping address them", was held on 22-24 May 1992 at Windhoek, Namibia, which brought together some 30 South African experts from ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), trade unions, universities, industrial and banking agencies and organizations involved in social and economic analysis and policy planning, with senior representatives from United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. The participants discussed socio-economic problems emanating from apartheid; preliminary assessment of the most urgent needs of the population; priority areas for international assistance; institutional framework for delivery of United Nations assistance; and mobilization of resources. The Chairman stated that in order to ensure sustained political stability in a new democratic South Africa, it was crucial to addresss socio-economic problems urgently.

34. Considering the precarious political situation in South Africa at present, the Chairman stated that the lifting of pressure at this time would be counter-productive to the international community's overall efforts to ensure that the fragile process of change now under way would not be derailed. The Chairman described the strengthening of assistance to disadvantaged segments of society as crucial in preparing South Africans to fully participate in the rebuilding of their country. The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, which was established for legal assistance to persons persecuted under the system of apartheid, including their families, remained very much relevant as political trials continued and violence had not been contained. The Chairman added that there was an urgent need to strengthen the role of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa in order to meet the growing and critical educational and training needs of students from South Africa. The Chairman and the Acting

President were of the view that a large trained cadre of Black South Africans would play a critical role in facilitating a smooth transition to a post-apartheid society.

III. CONCLUSION

35. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its forty-seventh session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the President of the Council shall continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and with the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid on matters raised in the present report.